

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 102311

ORIGIN ARA-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KINGSTON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

INFO NAVFAC BARBADOS

NAVAC ANTIGUA IMMEDIATE

CNO

SECDEF

CINCLANT

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 102311

KINGSTON FOR HEAVNER ; CINCLANT FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, AC

SUBJECT: ANTIGUA MILITARY FACILITY NEGOTIATIONS

1. ATTORNEY ROBERT WASHINGTON OF
WASHINGTON, D.C. LAW FIRM DANZANSKY, DICKEY, TYDINGS,
ET AL, CALLED DESK OFFICER VERY LATE MAY 4 TO SAY HE HAD
JUST RETURNED FROM 5 DAYS IN ANTIGUA DURING WHICH HIS
FIRM WAS RETAINED TO REPRESENT ANTIGUA IN THE MILITARY
FACILITIES NEGOTIATIONS. HE SAID HE WOULD RETURN TO
ANTIGUA MAY 7 WITH STEVE DANZANSKY, SON OF THE PRINCIPAL
PARTNER OF HIS FIRM.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 102311

2. ANTIGUAN PREPARATIONS EXTENSIVE. WASHINGTON SAID THE
ANTIGUANS WERE EXTREMELY WELL PREPARED FOR THE
NEGOTIATIONS, AND SAID HE WANTED TO MAKE SURE THE USG
DID NOT INSULT THEM WITH THEIR OFFER. HE SAID THE
ANTIGUANS WERE WELL INFORMED OF THE SENATE HEARINGS ON
THE BASE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE PHILIPPINES AND SPAIN IN

WHICH AT LEAST ONE SENATOR CHARACTERIZED MILITARY PAYMENTS FOR FACILITIES AS "A DISGUISED FORM OF ASSISTANCE". HE SAID THE ANTIGUANS TOOK THE OTHER NEGOTIATIONS AS CLEAR EVIDENCE THAT ALL THE OTHER ELEMENTS OF THESE SETTLEMENTS (CREDITS, AID, TRAINING, TRADE PREFERENCES) COULD BE PROVIDED TO ANTIGUA, ALTHOUGH

ON A SCALE COMENSURATE WITH THE SMALLER SIZE OF THE ANTIGUA FACILITIES.

3. ANTIGUAN GRIEVANCES. WASHINGTON SAID THE ANTIGUANS FEEL THEY HAVE "BEEN USED AND NEGLECTED" OVER THE 16 YEARS, AND THAT THE FACILITIES HAD BROUGHT THEM NOTHING. HE SAID THEY HAD BUILT ROADS WHICH US MILITARY VEHICLES DAMAGED, AND THAT THEY HAD RECEIVED NOTHING FOR THE USE OF THEIR ROADS, PORTS, AIRPORTS, AND OTHER FACILITIES. HE SAID THE 120 EMPLOYEES WERE HIRED ONLY RECENTLY AND THAT THEY HELD ONLY THE MOST MENIAL JOBS. HE SAID MILITARY PERSONNEL BUY THEIR SUPPLIES DUTY FREE, AND CONTRIBUTE NOTHING IN OTHER TAXES TO THE ECONOMY.

4. LIKELY ANTIGUAN DEMANDS. WASHINGTON SAID THAT THE ANTIGUANS WANTED "MILLIONS AND MILLIONS OF DOLLARS ANNUALLY", BUT NOT NECESSARILY ALL IN CASH PAYMENTS. HE SAID THE ANTIGUANS WOULD SEEK LINKAGES BETWEEN THE FACILITIES AND SUCH "ASSISTANCE" AS EXIM BANK LOANS AND GUARANTEES, DEBT FORGIVENESS, AVIATION ROUTES TO THE NEW YORK AND MIAMI, AND SPECIAL CUSTOMS TREATMENT LIKE THE EXTRA \$100 DUTY EXEMPTION FOR US
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PAGE 03 STATE 102311

CITIZENS RETURNING FROM THE US VIRGIN ISLANDS. HE SAID THE US SHOULD PAY CLOSE ATTENTION TO PM VERE BYRD'S OPENING STATEMENT AND SAID THAT WHILE THE ANTIGUANS WANTED THE FACILITIES BADLY, THEY WANTED THEM IN THE FRAMEWORK OF A CLOSER ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP WITH THE US. CHRISTOPHER

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